

7 Power-Killing Maintenance Mistakes (And How to Fix Them)

For Older Gas & Diesel Trucks - From Prescription Diesel

1. Neglecting Fuel & Air Filters

Dirty filters reduce power, MPG, and can clog injectors. Check and replace regularly.

2. Overdue Oil & Fluid Changes

Sludge and breakdown lead to overheating and wear. Stick to service intervals, especially under heavy use.

3. Ignoring Weak Grounds & Electrical Gremlins

Hard starts and voltage drops can usually be traced to poor grounding. Inspect yearly.

4. Cooling System Overlooked

Old coolant, failing thermostats, and weak radiators kill engines. Flush and test regularly.

5. Vacuum Leaks in Gas Engines

They cause rough idle, poor throttle, and rich/lean codes. Use carb cleaner or smoke test.

6. Suspicious Noises Ignored

Knocks, clicks, or squeals are early signs of failure. Don't wait for a breakdown.

7. Waiting for Check Engine Lights

Most older rigs don't throw a code until it's bad. Trust how it feels, not just the dash.

Bonus: How Often Should You Really Service Older Trucks?

- Oil: Every 3,000-5,000 miles (more often under load)
- Coolant: Flush every 2-3 years or 30k miles
- Filters: Check with every oil change
- Grounds & wiring: Inspect annually